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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Norway signs international space treaty
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Great reads chosen by Jeff Kinney
p23

HOW TO
Make fun ice cream treats
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

WELCOME TO THE WNBA

As the season begins, the league expands with its first new team since 2008 p18

The Golden State Valkyries in preseason action on May 11

Princeton, Texas

WOW!
The most populated US cities are New York City, with nearly 8.5 million people, and Los Angeles, California, with nearly 3.9 million.

Happy places

Copenhagen

A report by the Institute for Quality of Life found that Copenhagen, Denmark, is the world's happiest city, based on its citizens, governance, environment, economy, health, and mobility. The next four happiest cities were Zurich, Switzerland; Singapore (a city-state); Aarhus, Denmark; and Antwerp, Belgium.

Fastest-growing US cities named

On May 15, the US Census Bureau released a list of the nation's cities that experienced the greatest population growth between July 2023 and July 2024. The South and West dominated the rankings, and Texas accounted for four of the top five fastest-growing cities in the country.

What did the report show?

The statistics from the Census Bureau, a government agency that gathers data on the US population and economy, documented growth in cities of all sizes across much of the country. The findings showed that 94% of the nation's biggest cities rebounded from population declines that took place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cities in the South and West had the most significant population increases, continuing a trend from previous years. Southern cities had an average population growth of 1.6%, which was the highest in the country. Two of them—Jacksonville, Florida, and Fort Worth, Texas—surpassed a population of 1 million people for the first time. Cities in the West grew by an average of 1%. Meanwhile, the populations of cities in the Northeast also expanded, growing five times more than they did in 2023. Overall, the population of the US grew by 1%, reaching a total of more than 340 million people.

Los Angeles, California

Which five cities grew fastest?

Two Texas cities—Princeton and Fulshear—are considered to have grown the fastest because they had the greatest percentage change in new residents. Princeton had what Census officials called a "remarkable" growth rate of 30.6%, adding about 11,300 people to bring its population to 37,019. Fulshear welcomed about 14,600 new residents, for a total of about 54,629 people and a growth rate of 26.9%. Leesburg, Florida, expanded by about 7,000 people to grow by 18.5%, while Celina, Texas, added 9,400 residents, growing at a rate of 18.2%. Anna, Texas, rounded out the top five with a 14.6% growth rate.

Which cities added the most people?

Although New York City still has 3.7% fewer residents than it did before the pandemic, it also gained the greatest number of residents in the nation, with 87,184 new people. Los Angeles, California, gained 31,276 people and made the list of cities with the most new residents for the first time since 2016. Three Texas cities were among the top five with the greatest number of new residents: Houston (43,217 people), San Antonio (23,945), and Fort Worth (23,442). There was one exception to the overall boom in the South: The growth rate in small cities in the region did not increase compared to the previous year.

Why did the populations grow?

The data showed that across the country, population growth was largely due to immigration. From 2021 to 2024, more than 2.7 million people migrated to the US from other countries. The increases were also due to people moving back to major metropolitan areas after leaving during the pandemic. For smaller cities like Princeton, the relatively low cost of homes was a major reason people moved there. "It's affordability," Eugene Escobar, the mayor of Princeton, told the *Texas Tribune*. "That's really the driving factor."

What will happen next?

Officials in fast-growing areas are scrambling to meet the needs of their larger populations. In Princeton, twice as many homes were built between 2020 and 2023 as in the previous 10 years. But construction of new homes was recently stopped to allow water and sewer systems to catch up. Officials in many other cities are working to handle increased housing requirements while also managing additional traffic, expanding schools, and developing public amenities like parks.

Norway signs space treaty

Norway signed the Artemis Accords on May 15, becoming the 55th country to join the international agreement promoting peaceful and cooperative space exploration. It was created in 2020 by the US and seven other nations, including the UK, Australia, and Japan. The treaty supports the Artemis program, which is led by NASA (the US space agency) and aims to return astronauts to the Moon and eventually send crews to Mars.

Norway and the US have been working together on space missions since 1962. That year, they collaborated with Denmark to launch the first non-military rocket from Norway's Andøya Space Center. Since then, NASA has conducted many missions from the center.

Countries that sign the Artemis Accords agree to share information, avoid conflict, and protect space sites like Moon landing areas. "Norway is not only supporting the future of exploration but also helping us define it with all our partners for the Moon, Mars, and beyond," said Janet Petro, the acting NASA administrator.

Norway's flag

Harvard's handwritten copy of the Magna Carta from the year 1300

VALUABLE WORDS

In 2007, a version of the Magna Carta that was issued by King Edward I in the year 1297 sold at auction for $21.3 million.

Rare document found in library

In 1946, Harvard University paid $27.50 for a worn and stained "copy" of a historical document called the Magna Carta. That copy was recently identified as a 725-year-old original worth millions of dollars.

The Magna Carta ("Great Charter" in Latin) was a legal proclamation issued by King John of England in the year 1215 guaranteeing rights and freedoms to his people. John was forced to sign it by noblemen who wanted to limit his power.

As the first written document to state that a king was not above the law, the Magna Carta became the basis for the constitutions (highest laws) of many nations, including the US. The Magna Carta was reissued by other rulers in later years.

Harvard's copy was held at its law school library and available in digital form online. That's where David Carpenter, a professor of medieval history at King's College, London, came across it. Carpenter suspected that the document was actually an original issued by King Edward I in 1300 and that it had been misidentified when Harvard bought it.

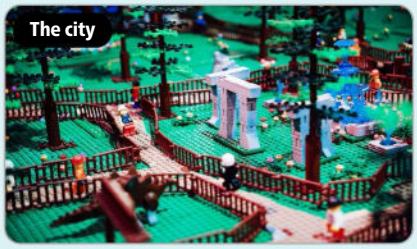
To confirm this hunch, Carpenter and Nicholas Vincent, a medieval history professor at the University of East Anglia, compared Harvard's version to the six Edward I versions known to exist. Using special imaging techniques, they analyzed the document's measurements, text, and handwriting and found a perfect match.

Carpenter called the Harvard version "an original of one of the most significant documents in world constitutional history, a cornerstone of freedoms past, present, and yet to be won." Harvard officials said they don't plan to sell it and hope it inspires new generations to learn about it.

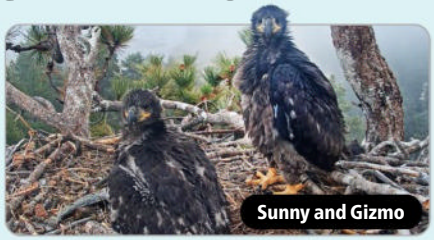
IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

BUILDING BIG

A Lego city made up of 239,444 bricks has set a record for the world's largest Lego diorama. The 760-square-foot town, built in Portugal, has neighborhoods, a suspension bridge, an airport, beaches, cars, and even a Ferris wheel.



The city



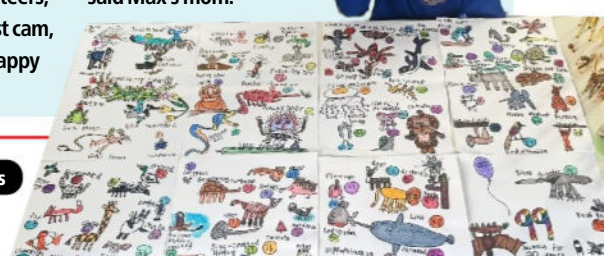
Sunny and Gizmo

TAKING FLIGHT

Bald eaglets Sunny and Gizmo, who hatched on a live nest cam in California in March, are flapping their wings and will fly away soon. Sandy Steers, head of the nonprofit that operates the nest cam, said she'll be sad to see them go but also happy "they had the courage to just take off."

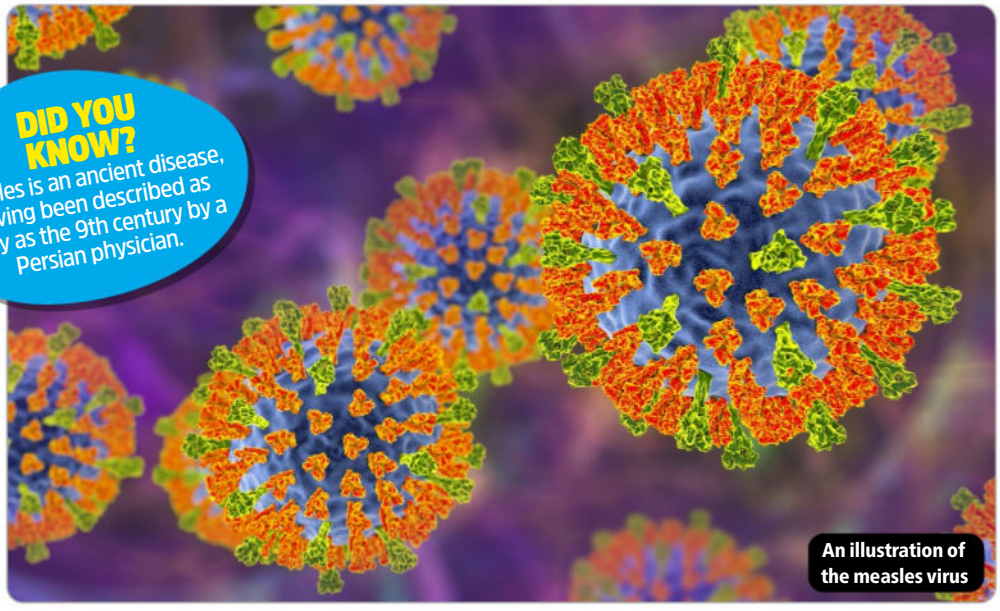
A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

Max Evans-Browning, age 5, drew 99 animals in honor of renowned wildlife expert David Attenborough's 99th birthday. But these weren't just any animals—Max researched and drew Attenborough's favorite creatures. The boy, who lives in the UK, is such a big fan of the famous conservationist that he once dressed like him for a school event. The birthday drawings were "a mammoth task for a 5-year-old, but he's done it," said Max's mom.



Max and his drawings

ON OUR COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); LEVEL 5; FILIP WOLAK; ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; ON THIS PAGE: HARVARD LAW SCHOOL; GETTY IMAGES; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; FRIENDS OF BIG BEAR VALLEY; SAMANTHA EVANS-BROWNING; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); SHUTTERSTOCK



DID YOU KNOW?
Measles is an ancient disease, having been described as early as the 9th century by a Persian physician.

An illustration of the measles virus

History of the vaccine

John Franklin Enders (shown above) is known as the "father of modern vaccines" for his work in developing a vaccine to prevent measles. In 1954, he isolated a sample of the measles virus and used it to develop the vaccine. He tested the vaccine on thousands of children before it was made available to the public in 1963.

Measles cases are reported in 30 states

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported more than 1,000 cases of measles, putting the nation on course to have the highest number of patients with the disease in 25 years. Cases have been reported in 30 states, with the spike being driven by a large outbreak in Texas.

What is measles?

Measles is a disease caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air from person to person. Most people recover from measles, but it can be serious, even deadly, for young children. Before the measles vaccine (medicine to prevent an illness) was developed (see sidebar above), the disease caused hundreds of deaths and thousands of hospitalizations each year in the US. As use of the vaccine became widespread, cases dropped significantly. By 2000, health officials said the disease had been eliminated from the country.

What has been reported?

On May 16, the CDC reported 1,024 cases of measles. Texas had 718 of those cases, and two of them were children who died from measles. In New Mexico, outbreaks led to the death of one adult. Other states with outbreaks include Kansas, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. About 13% of measles patients, most of them under age 19, have been hospitalized.

Why is this happening?

A decrease in the number of people getting vaccinated against measles has led to more cases. Since 2024, the rate of children who have had the measles vaccine when entering kindergarten has been below 95%, and in some communities the rate is 82%. When the rate drops below 95%, the virus is more likely to spread and infect people, particularly those who are not vaccinated. Nearly all the people who have contracted measles this year in the US haven't had the vaccine.

What will happen next?

As health officials continue to monitor the spread of cases, pediatricians will continue to encourage parents to have their children receive the vaccine, which studies have shown to be safe and effective. "The thing to know about measles is that it is almost entirely 100% preventable, and that's by receiving [a] measles vaccination," Dr. Roy Gulick, an infectious disease specialist, told ABC News.

WORD OF THE WEEK

TEXT

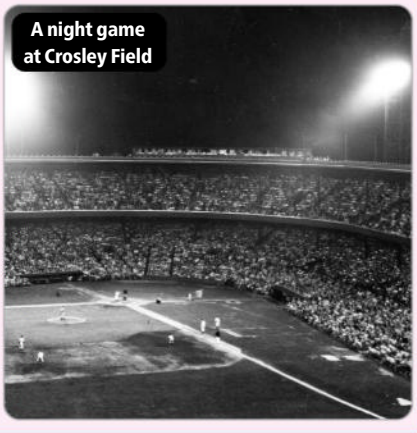
The word "text" originates from the Latin verb texere**, meaning "weave." When we create a written text on paper or send a text message on our phones, we are weaving words together like the threads in a piece of cloth. "Text" is from the same family as "textile" and "texture."**

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

May 24, 1935

First baseball game played at night

On May 24, 1935, the first Major League Baseball (MLB) game was played at night under the lights at Crosley Field in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cincinnati Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies. President Franklin D. Roosevelt symbolically flipped a switch from Washington, DC, to turn on the lights. The Reds defeated the Phillies, 2–1. Today, about 66% of MLB games are played in the evening.



A night game at Crosley Field

John Ewing Jr.

Historic election in Nebraska

On May 13, John Ewing Jr. made history when he was elected mayor of Nebraska's largest city, Omaha. Ewing, a Democrat, will be the first Black person, and the first Democrat since 2009, to hold the position. He defeated the current mayor, Republican Jean Stothert, by winning 56% of the vote to Stothert's 43%. Ewing previously served as the city's deputy police chief. "We embark on a new chapter," said Ewing, who will take office on June 9.

Kathy Hochul

New York bans phones in school

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced a statewide ban on smartphones in all public schools beginning this fall. New York is now the largest state to prohibit students in grades K–12 from accessing their devices during the school day. At least 10 other states have enacted similar bans. The decision is aimed at creating a distraction-free and positive learning environment, Hochul said.

Top baby names announced

In 2024, for the sixth year in a row, Olivia and Liam topped the lists of most popular names given to girls and boys in the US, reported the Social Security Administration, the agency that tracks names. The girl's name Ailany, which means "chief" or "heavens," made the largest jump in popularity, going from number 855 to 101. For boys, Truce, meaning "peace," made the biggest gain on the list.

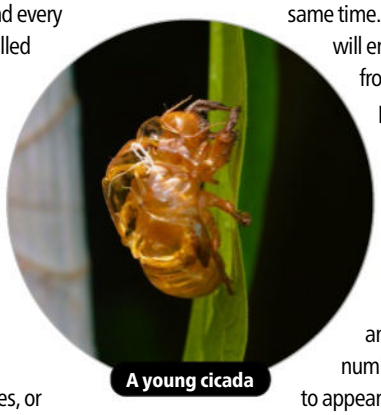
Brood XIV cicadas

MAKING MUSIC
A group of cicadas singing is called a chorus, and their songs can be heard up to a mile away.

Cicadas begin to emerge in regions of US

Billions of cicadas have started to emerge from under the ground in parts of the Northeast, Midwest, and Southeast US this year. Although the insects are known for making loud noises, they don't harm humans and can help the environment, such as by serving as a food source for other animals. The group of cicadas emerging this year hasn't been seen above ground since 2008.

There are more than 3,000 species of cicadas, and most appear above ground every summer. But seven species, called periodical cicadas, in North America stay underground for many years. Four species emerge on a 13-year cycle, while three follow a 17-year cycle. A group of cicadas that emerges together is called a brood and can include multiple species. This year's group is Brood XIV.


A young cicada

Cicadas emerge as juveniles, or nymphs, once the weather gets warmer. They shed their skin and take on their adult form. As adults, they stay above ground for four to six weeks, during which time males sing songs to attract female mates. After mating, the females lay hundreds of eggs, which hatch after several weeks. The nymphs chew on branch tips before burrowing underground and starting the cycle over again. The adults die without returning underground.

Brood XIV is one of the largest periodical cicada broods to appear every 17 years. However, there will be fewer cicadas this year than last year, when two separate broods emerged at about the same time. Many cicadas in Brood XIV will emerge in one large patch from Georgia to Ohio. Other populations will emerge in central Pennsylvania; Long Island, New York; and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. So far this year, cicadas have already been seen in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The highest numbers of cicadas are expected to appear in Kentucky and Tennessee.

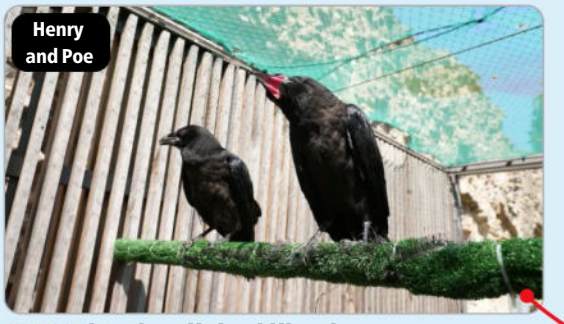
The Brood XIV cicadas should be gone by July and won't be seen again until 2042. "This is a once-in-a-generation activity," Gene Kritsky, an insect researcher, told *USA Today*.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"A bear is spotted in Connecticut playing on family's backyard slide" *AP*

GETTY IMAGES (5); DCTREASURER.ORG; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Around the world


Henry and Poe

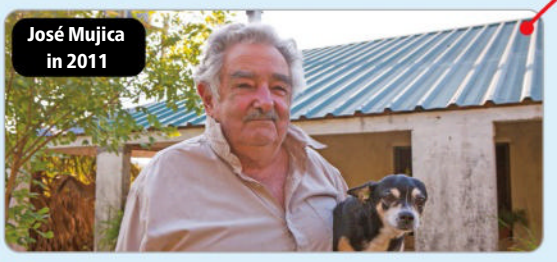
London, United Kingdom
Ravens join flock at famous fortress

Two raven chicks named Henry and Poe have moved into the historic Tower of London. A legend says that at least six ravens must live at the castle at all times. Otherwise, the kingdom of England would fall. Henry and Poe were born in April through the tower's raven breeding program. They will stay in an enclosure for a few weeks before being introduced to the other six ravens that already live at the landmark.

Stray cats will be allowed to stay.

Mexico City, Mexico
Protection for community animals

Authorities have changed Mexico City's animal welfare law to give extra legal protection to animals that live on the streets in Mexico's capital. Estimates suggest that millions of stray dogs and cats live throughout the country. Before the change, animals living in public places could be taken by the city's canine control center. Now they can stay where they are as long as they are being fed and cared for by local people.


José Mujica in 2011

Montevideo, Uruguay
Former leader is remembered

José Mujica, Uruguay's president from 2010 to 2015, has died at age 89. He was involved in politics from a young age, often opposing the government from the 1960s to the 1980s. After he took office, he became known for living a humble life. He gave most of his salary to charity and used his modest home and car instead of the official palace and vehicles.

Paris, France
City ranked best for biking

Paris is the best city for children riding bicycles, according to a new report from the organization Clean Cities. The French capital now has nearly 200 miles of bike lanes, low road speeds, and traffic restrictions in streets where schools are located. The report says Paris has "achieved remarkable progress" in the past 10 years.

A child bikes in Paris.

Ghana
Plan for more cocoa

Cassiel Ato Forson, Ghana's finance minister, announced a plan to increase the nation's production of cocoa beans, the key ingredient in chocolate. Ghana is the world's second-largest producer of cocoa, but its output has fallen to a 20-year low due to factors including climate change and diseases affecting cocoa trees. The government said it intends to buy nearly 500,000 acres of land to use for cocoa plantations by the end of this year.

A cocoa farmer in Ghana

HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES; GETTY IMAGES (9)

JJ celebrates his victory.

Basel, Switzerland
Song contest winner named

On May 17, the Eurovision Song Contest final took place in Basel, Switzerland. Artists from 26 countries performed original songs in the annual competition, which is scored based on votes by experts and the public. Austrian opera singer JJ was named the champion, earning a score of 436 points for his song "Wasted Love."

Nicușor Dan (center) with supporters

Romania
New president is chosen

After two rounds of voting, Nicușor Dan was elected president of Romania on May 18. Dan, a mathematician and activist who has been serving as mayor of Bucharest, the country's capital, ran as an independent. He secured 53.6% of the vote to defeat George Simion from the far-right AUR party, who had a strong lead in the first round on May 4. Dan will serve a five-year term as president and will nominate a new prime minister.

Students wearing tiger masks

Northern India
Learning to live with tigers

Schoolchildren in rural areas of northern India are being taught how to live alongside tigers. India's tiger population has more than doubled since 2010, which has led to more tigers entering areas where humans live. The Wild Scouts program teaches children how to stay safe by taking actions such as moving around in groups and staying home after dark. Experts say understanding tigers is key to living peacefully alongside them.

Rodrigo Duterte

Davao City, Philippines
Imprisoned mayor is re-elected

Rodrigo Duterte, the former president of the Philippines, has been re-elected mayor of Davao City. However, he's currently in prison in the Netherlands, where the International Criminal Court holds trials. Duterte was arrested in March after he was accused of crimes against humanity. It's unclear whether he will be able to serve as mayor while he's imprisoned.

Weifang, China
Corgi cop goes viral

China's first police corgi has become a hit on social media. Last year, a trainer recruited Fu Zai as a sniffer dog for the Weifang police. Although corgis are not traditionally used as police dogs, Fu Zai's trainer said his short legs allow him to inspect small spaces that other dog breeds can't reach. Fu Zai has excelled in his work, which includes detecting explosives, but about 400,000 online followers have also seen him nap on the job and steal a sausage during a patrol.

Fu Zai on patrol

Is texting better than calling?

Some people say we're trading convenience for connection when we send messages.

What you need to know

- **In 1993, telecommunications company Nokia released the first cell phone with text messaging.**
- **Every day, about 23 billion texts are sent worldwide and about 4.1 billion are sent in the US.**
- **Studies show that talking to a loved one on the phone causes the brain to release chemicals that make us feel better.**
- **According to some scientists, texting can improve relationships and mood by making people feel connected.**

SEASON'S GREETINGS
The first text message sent in December 1992 from a computer to a cell phone consisted of two words: "Merry Christmas."

In a recent YouGov survey, 40% of people said texting is their preferred method of communication with loved ones, while 29% said they prefer staying in touch by phone call. In particular, young people between the ages of 18 and 24 prefer to text, not call. Many people say texting is quick and efficient. It helps them stay in touch even when they're busy, and a simple text can make someone's day. But others say that even though we're saving time, we're losing something more important, like real connection. They think typing out a few words will never measure up to talking. What do you think? Is texting better than calling?

Yes—it's still meaningful

Who has time to get on the phone and chat about their day? Even when we're super busy, texting allows us to stay in touch with family and friends and let them know we're thinking about them. Plus, texts give the sender and the recipient flexibility. You can reach out without worrying that the other person might be in the middle of something, and they can read and respond when they're free. And with texting, you can send a simple emoji, picture, or meme that says so much more than words and can make them smile, laugh, or replay happy memories. You can't do that on the phone.

No—so much gets lost

It's too hard to have a real conversation by text when you can't hear the other person's voice or tone. In texts, you can't really tell if someone is joking, smiling, or upset, which can lead to major misunderstandings on both sides. Plus, it's impersonal. Both the texter and the person being texted could be doing other things at the same time and not really paying attention to each other. That doesn't build connections, and it doesn't happen when you're talking face to face. Besides, not everything needs to be put in writing. Some information or news is better shared verbally, especially if it's sensitive or private.

YES Three reasons texting is better than calling

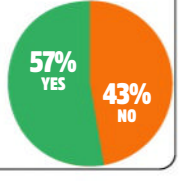
1. **Everyone is busy these days, and it's too hard to find time to talk. It's easier and more convenient to text.**
2. **You don't have to worry about the other person being available, and they don't have to respond immediately.**
3. **You can share links, pictures, memes, and emojis by text but not on a phone call.**

NO Three reasons texting is not better than calling

1. **Having a real conversation or resolving a problem is difficult over text, when you can't always tell what someone means.**
2. **It's impersonal. It's easy to avoid truly paying attention when you're texting.**
3. **Not everything belongs in a text message—some things are better shared on the phone.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it is OK for kids to order lunch to school. More of you were in favor of food deliveries: 57% said yes, while 43% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think texting is better than calling or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

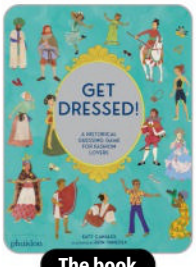
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Dressing up history

Katy Canales connects clothing and culture in a new children's book.

For more than 10 years, Katy Canales has helped teach young people at some of England's most prestigious museums. Now she has applied her expertise to her debut children's book, *Get Dressed!: A Historical Guessing Game for Fashion Lovers*, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Phaidon Press Kids imprint.



The book

Canales began her career working in communications for charity organizations before following her passion for museums. After earning a master's degree in museum studies, she became an assistant curator (person who selects and preserves art) at Young V&A, a museum in London focused on childhood history. "They have an incredible historic clothing collection, and I jumped at the chance to be in charge of that," Canales told *The Week Junior*. She is now a curator for the countryside estate of Beatrix Potter, the beloved British author and illustrator of *The Tales of Peter Rabbit*.

Get Dressed! is an interactive, fun way for kids to explore fashion history. Through a guessing-game format, readers explore 10 fascinating periods, from ancient Greece at the time of the first Olympics to 1950s Ghana. The book features interesting facts such as why the Incas in 15th-century South America communicated through woven fabric threads or how US workers dressed for their jobs in the1920s.

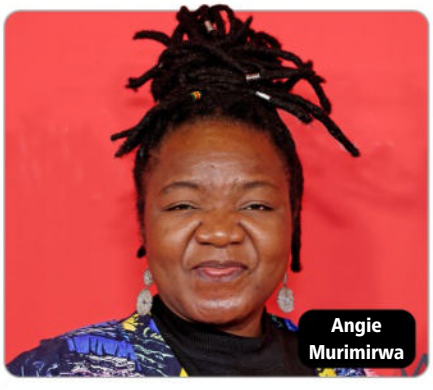
Canales hopes the book sparks a deeper appreciation for fashion's role in shaping cultural history. "The beauty of clothing is that it is woven with stories," she said. "Even if someone lived 2,000 years ago, they become relatable."

Katy Canales

DID YOU KNOW?
In 18th-century France, style trends were captured in detailed illustrations called "fashion plates."

Helping girls succeed

Angie Murimirwa, head of the nonprofit Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), was named to *Time* magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people for her work in empowering girls through education across Africa. Since its founding in 1993, CAMFED has helped fund schooling for 7.8 million children. Growing up in Zimbabwe, Murimirwa overcame barriers to education with the help of a CAMFED scholarship. "For a girl in rural Africa," she said, "[education]

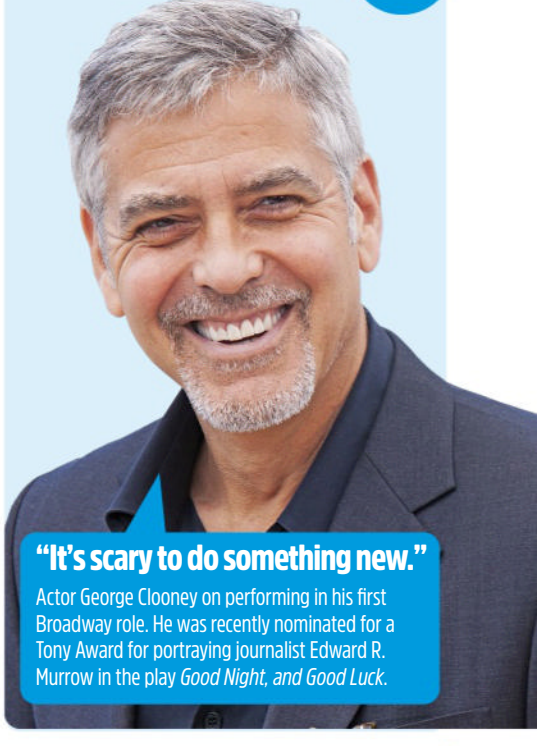

Angie Murimirwa

Tobi Awe

A top poetry prize

Oluwatobiloba "Tobi" Awe, who attends Maryland School for the Deaf, has won a national award at the 10th annual National Literacy Competition hosted by Gallaudet University, a leading institution for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. He earned first place in the American Sign Language (ASL) category with his poem *Haunted House*. It is told using ASL numbers 1 through 20 to create a spooky story. Awe received a $1,000 scholarship to Gallaudet and a trip to its summer program. "I felt really good when I found out I won," he said.

OVERHEARD



"It's scary to do something new."
Actor George Clooney on performing in his first Broadway role. He was recently nominated for a Tony Award for portraying journalist Edward R. Murrow in the play *Good Night, and Good Luck*.

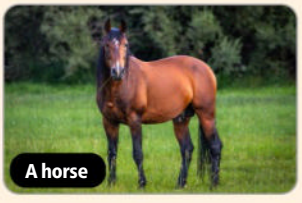
ALICE SAGE; COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; GETTY IMAGES (2); COURTESY THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Atlantic spotted dolphins

DID YOU KNOW?
One way Atlantic spotted dolphins communicate is by blowing bubbles through their blowholes.

Studying body language

Scientists have developed a new way to check horses' health. When horses are in pain, it's difficult for humans to notice the signs—small changes in how they stand or walk. The new AI system, called Dessie, generates 3D models of a horse's movement to find indications of discomfort.



A horse

Using AI to speak with dolphins

Dolphins are well known for their intelligence, including their ability to communicate with one another by making clicks and whistles. This has inspired a group of scientists to use artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) to better understand how dolphins communicate. They are now trying to "talk" with dolphins in the ocean.

The AI is using research gathered by the Wild Dolphin Project (WDP). The project's scientists have studied Atlantic spotted dolphins since 1985, including observing the sounds the dolphins make underwater. They have found that certain sounds are associated with specific behaviors. For instance, dolphins often "squawk" during fights and "buzz" when they are courting another dolphin.

Dolphins can produce sounds underwater.

Now that data is being put to new use by engineers at Google, who have developed an AI model called DolphinGemma. By inputting the WDP's sound data, they have trained the AI model to identify common patterns and sequences, including some that humans might overlook. Eventually, scientists hope that DolphinGemma will be able to predict what sounds a dolphin may produce, just as some software predicts what a person is about to type.

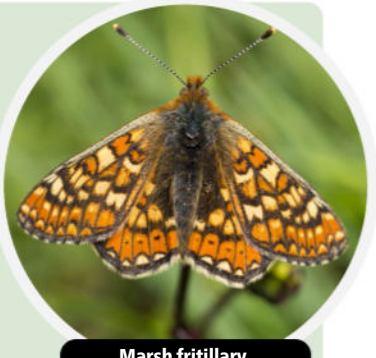
In addition to creating DolphinGemma, the team has worked with scientists at the Georgia Institute of Technology to develop the Cetacean Hearing Augmentation Telemetry (CHAT) system. This technology "talks" to dolphins by playing new, dolphin-like whistle sounds through an underwater speaker. The researchers are encouraging dolphins to associate each new whistle with a specific object they enjoy playing with, like a strand of seaweed or a scarf, and "speak" back by mimicking those whistles to request these toys from humans. DolphinGemma will help the CHAT system recognize when the dolphins are mimicking the new sounds so researchers can give the animals the correct items.

Google plans to publicly release their DolphinGemma technology so other researchers can use it to study species such as bottlenose dolphins. Meanwhile, outside this project, teams of scientists are also working on using AI to study crow calls and whale sounds.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

Established in 1949 across about 116 square miles in the country's center, Plitvice Lakes National Park is Croatia's largest and oldest national park. The area features lush forests and meadows but is best known for its water formations, such as waterfalls and lakes. Many of the lakes appear in vibrant colors, which come from mineral deposits in the water. Animals in the park include bears, wolves, otters, lynx, butterflies, and rare bird species. Each year the park receives about a million visitors who enjoy the beauty of the waterfalls, several walking and hiking trails, and boating.



Marsh fritillary butterflies live in the park.

BIRD BONDING
In the winter, American crows can be found sleeping in groups of up to 2 million birds.

Crows showed a surprising understanding of geometry.

Crows can recognize shapes

Studies have shown that crows are smart enough to craft tools and recognize human faces. Now experts believe the birds can identify complex shapes.

Researchers from Germany put two carrion crows in front of a computer screen that streamed a set of shapes. They trained the birds to peck at a star shape to earn a reward of mealworms.

Next, the birds were shown a group of six shapes, such as one star and five moons. The birds figured out that one shape was different from the others and pecked at it.

The team then made it more difficult by showing the crows different four-sided shapes, like squares and parallelograms. One of these figures was slightly irregular—for example, it had a longer side and a shorter side instead of equal sides all around. The birds were able to single out the irregular shape without any more training.

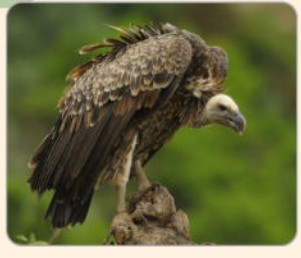
Experts previously thought only humans could grasp geometry concepts like parallel lines, angles, and symmetry. But this study opens up the possibility that other members of the animal kingdom have this ability too.

Animal of the week: Fishing cat

The San Diego Zoo has welcomed an 8-year-old fishing cat named Miso-Chi from the Denver Zoo as part of a program to protect the vulnerable species. Keepers describe Miso-Chi as confident, smart, and a quick learner.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 10 to 13 years
- **HABITAT:** Wetlands in South and Southeast Asia
- **SIZE:** 2 to 4 feet long, about 1.2 feet tall
- **DIET:** Mainly fish, plus crabs, crayfish, and frogs
- **FUN FACT:** Their front toes are webbed, which helps them swim and maneuver in the water.

Good week / Bad week



Vultures

Although vultures are often associated with ugliness and death, conservationists in Africa are working to improve their reputation. A report found that these birds of prey provide pest control and other benefits valued at $1.8 billion a year.

New Zealand's wildlife

According to a report from the government of New Zealand, many of the country's fish, birds, frogs, and reptiles face a risk of extinction. The report lists bacteria and the spread of non-native plants as threats to native species.

ASK AN EXPERT: "Why do Galapagos tortoises live so long?" Theo, 9, Kansas

Ron Magill
Wildlife expert,
Zoo Miami

While a human's heart rate can average 60 beats per minute, a Galapagos tortoise's averages 10 per minute. This puts less stress on vital organs, which can lead to a longer life. Tortoises also have unique immune responses and the ability to suppress cancer, and their shell protects against injury.

They can live for 175 years.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com.
Find out more about Zoo Miami at zoomiami.org.

GETTY IMAGES (3); SAN DIEGO ZOO; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

One soccer team will

The world gets ready to crown Europe's best in club soccer.

Ahead of the UEFA Champions League (UCL) final this month, find out more about one of the world's most prestigious soccer tournaments.

What is the UCL?

The official logo

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) oversees competitions between national teams and club teams in Europe. The UCL is its top club competition, bringing together teams across the continent to declare a champion of Europe every year. Most clubs qualify for the UCL by finishing their season in a top position in their national leagues. Competitive domestic leagues can qualify four or five teams, while in less competitive leagues only the champions qualify. The tournament starts with qualifying rounds, followed by a league phase and knockout rounds. It ends with a final in late May or early June.

Real Madrid celebrates victory in 1956.

UEFA history

A competition between top clubs in Europe was first proposed in the French sports newspaper *L'Equipe*. The first European Cup, as it was then known, was held in the 1955–1956 season and was won by Spanish club Real Madrid. For the first few decades, only the defending Cup champion and the clubs that won their national league could enter. The European Cup was renamed the UEFA Champions League in the 1992–1993 season, and in 1997 the Champions League expanded to include runner-up teams from national leagues.

WOW! A total of five players have won Champions League titles six times each.

RECORD HOLDER Among managers, Carlo Ancelotti has captured the most UCL titles, with five.

Liverpool fans in France in 2022

Differences between Europe and the US

Club soccer, or professional soccer, works differently in Europe compared to pro sports in the US. Instead of playing in one league for one objective, like winning the Super Bowl in the NFL, clubs play in multiple competitions throughout the season. Clubs in most countries are

GETTY IMAGES (6); UEFA

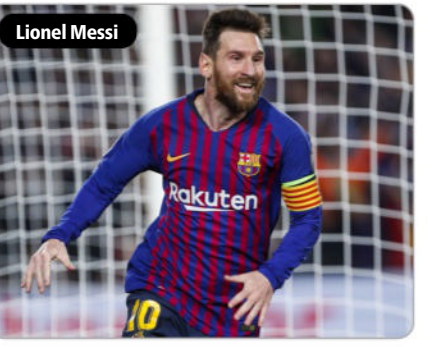
reign supreme

LEAGUE LEADERS
The top national soccer leagues in Europe are in England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The 2023–2024 season winning team, Real Madrid, with the UEFA Champions League trophy

organized into leagues that typically do not have playoffs, and the winner is the team that finishes at the top of the standings at the end of the season. Teams with the weakest performance get sent to a lower league and are replaced by that league's best teams. Clubs also participate in Cup competitions, which are knockout tournaments. In England, home and away fans are required to sit in separate sections.

US fans at a soccer match in Kansas in 2021



Lionel Messi

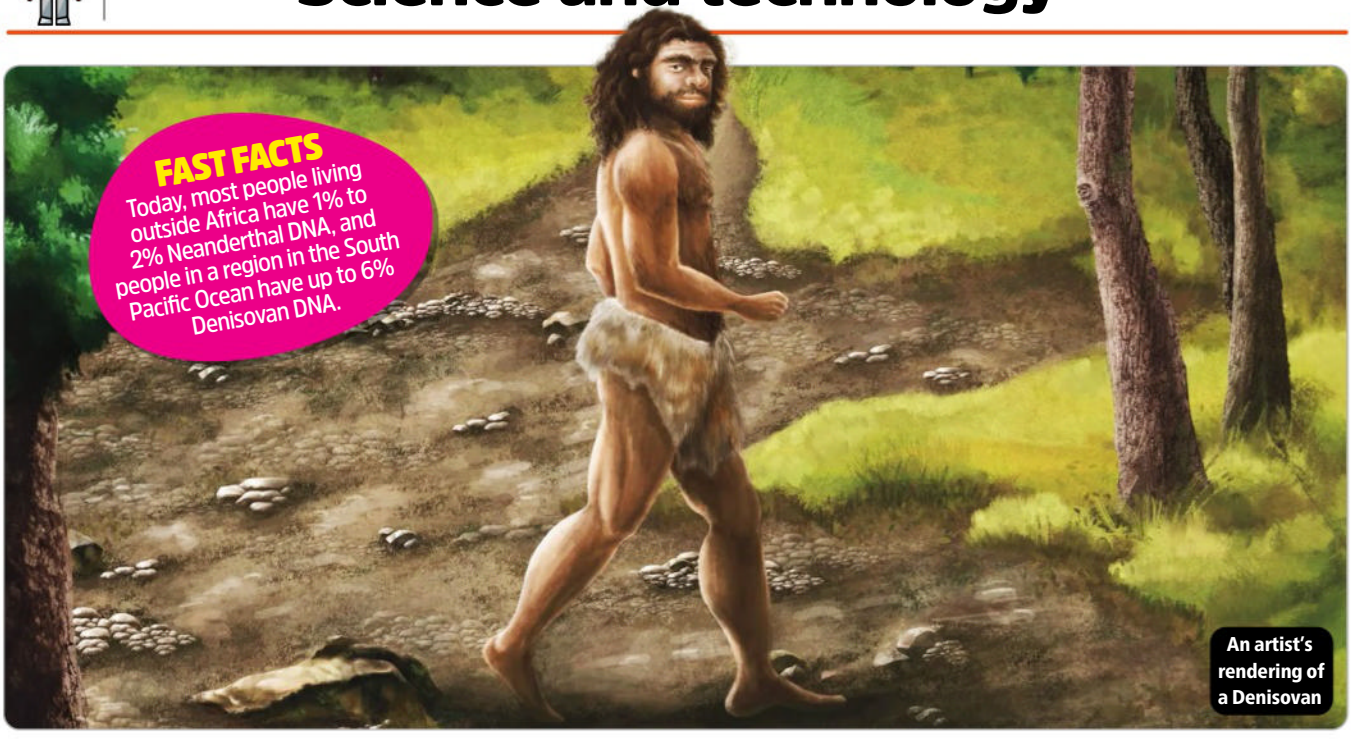
Big winners

Real Madrid has the most Champions League titles, with 15. Italian club AC Milan has the second-most, with seven, and the English club Liverpool and the German club Bayern Munich are tied for third with six each. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has the most Champions League goals, with 141, followed by Argentina's Lionel Messi, who has 129. Eight clubs have pulled off an accomplishment called a treble, which means that they won the UCL, their national league, and their country's top cup competition in the same season. Those clubs are Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Ajax, Celtic, Inter Milan, Manchester United, PSV Eindhoven, and Manchester City, with Barcelona and Bayern Munich achieving it twice.

A match in London

This year's tournament

The UCL final this year will take place in Munich, Germany, on May 31 between Italian club Inter Milan and French club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). Inter made the final following a thrilling 7–6 victory over two matches in the semifinal against Spanish club FC Barcelona, with the deciding goal from Davide Frattesi coming in extra time during the second match. Lautaro Martínez and Marcus Thuram have been two of the top scorers for Inter this season. PSG made the final after defeating North London club Arsenal 3–1 across the two-match semifinal. French forward Ousmane Dembélé is one of the club's top scorers and is considered by many to be one of the best players this season.



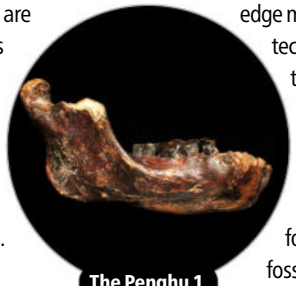
FAST FACTS
Today, most people living outside Africa have 1% to 2% Neanderthal DNA, and people in a region in the South Pacific Ocean have up to 6% Denisovan DNA.

An artist's rendering of a Denisovan

Mysterious jawbone fossil identified

After many years of debate, scientists have identified a mysterious ancient jawbone that was discovered on the ocean floor off the coast of Taiwan. Using advanced technology, a team of researchers determined that the fossil belonged to a Denisovan, one of the closest extinct relatives of modern humans.

Denisovans lived in Asia from about 300,000 to 50,000 years ago. Scientists know that they existed at the same time as early homo sapiens (humans) and Neanderthals, who are also human ancestors. But experts are just starting to learn more about Denisovans because they were only discovered in 2010. Very few of their fossils have been found, and most of those came from a single cave in Siberia.



The Penghu 1 jawbone

With so little evidence of Denisovans to work with, scientists have had a difficult time identifying their remains, pinpointing where they lived, and determining their exact link to humans. The few known Denisovan fossils have mostly been identified through DNA (complex chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing should grow and develop).

In the early 2000s, a fisherman in Taiwan pulled a large jawbone with five protruding teeth from the waters of the Penghu Channel. The jawbone was thicker and had larger teeth than a modern human jawbone, and it was missing the prominent chin that people have today. Scientists knew the fossil, known as Penghu 1, belonged to an early human. But they couldn't tell for sure whether its owner was a homo sapiens or another hominin (group consisting of modern humans and our extinct ancestors), like a Neanderthal.

For the new study, researchers used a cutting-edge method called paleoproteomics. The technique uses advanced equipment to analyze ancient proteins (basic structures found in all forms of life) embedded in bone and tooth enamel. They found two proteins in the jawbone that have been found only in other Denisovan fossils.

The scientists determined that Penghu 1 was male, but they have not been able to pinpoint exactly when he lived. The study did confirm, however, that Denisovans were widely spread across Asia, from cold northern regions like Siberia to warm and humid areas like Taiwan. The team hopes paleoproteomics can be used to identify other unidentified fossils and continue to shed light on the diversity and evolution of early humans.

Tools made by early humans

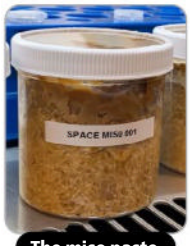
Ancient stone tools

Early humans who lived about 20,000 years ago shared knowledge and techniques to build stone tools, a new study found. The research was conducted by scientists at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois. They studied thousands of stone tools and their cores (larger pieces of stone that they came from) found in a cave nearly 75 feet up a steep cliff in South Africa.

The researchers could tell that the people who made the tools repeatedly used specific methods. This indicated that the process was intentional and had been learned and passed down from one person to another. Some of the methods were also used to make tools found at other sites hundreds of miles away, indicating that the techniques were being shared between communities as well.

A flavorful food is fermented in space

A traditional Japanese ingredient called miso has been successfully made in space. This could help provide a wider variety of food options for astronauts, who often report having a reduced sense of taste and appetite in space. More flavorful food could help them get the nutrition they need.



The miso paste made in space

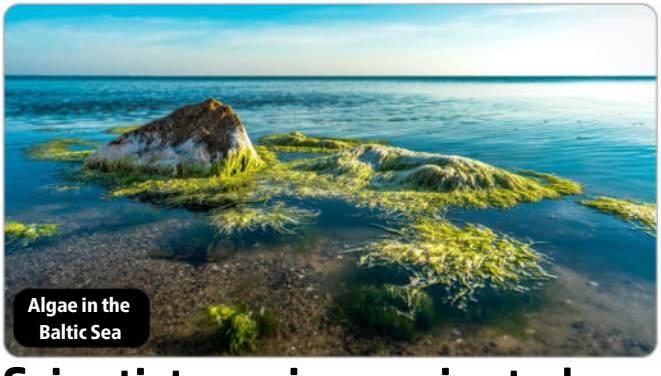
Miso is a paste made by fermenting soybeans. In the fermentation process, fungus (like mold or yeast) is added to an ingredient to trigger chemical changes in it. The technique is also used to make foods like bread, cheese, and soy sauce. Miso paste serves as a base for many soups, sauces, and marinades. Its flavor is considered "umami," which is described as a rich, meaty, or savory taste.

A team of researchers from the US and Denmark worked together to see whether miso could be made in space. They sent a container of soybean paste to the International Space Station (ISS), a lab that orbits about 250 miles from Earth. The paste fermented for 30 days on the ISS before it was sent back to Earth. Two samples were also fermented on Earth.

Taste tests revealed that the space miso was properly fermented and had a nuttier and more roasted flavor than the two made on Earth. "It was exciting to smell and taste the first bite," said Joshua Evans, who worked on the study. The team said more experiments will be carried out to allow astronauts to ferment and taste food products on the ISS.

Miso paste is a common ingredient in Japanese cooking.

CHEF'S SPECIAL
In 2021, astronauts on the ISS had a taco party to celebrate the first chili peppers grown in space.


Algae in the Baltic Sea

Scientists revive ancient algae

Algae that is 7,000 years old has been brought back to life. These organisms usually live in water and need sunlight to live and grow.

Researchers from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Germany tested mud samples from the bottom of the Baltic Sea. The mud contained material that had settled there in the past 7,000 years.

The mud contained an algae species called Skeletonema marinoi, which is a type of phytoplankton (microscopic marine algae). The species had gone into "sleep mode" because of the lack of light at the bottom of the sea. It did this as a way to survive by using hardly any energy.

The scientists exposed the algae to oxygen and light in a laboratory, which helped it to "wake up" and start growing again. Sarah Bolius, who worked on the study, said the samples they studied were "like a time capsule." The team thinks the algae could be among the oldest living organisms ever brought back to life.

AMAZING INVENTION

A sleeping bag that has more space

The Wrap Sack

Outdoor gear company Rumpl launched a new sleeping bag designed for custom comfort. The Wrap Sack isn't narrow and enclosed, like a traditional sleeping bag. Instead, it's open and roomy, with "wings" that can be layered over the body.

The Wrap Sack gives sleepers space to roll over and turn on their side. They can stick their feet out if they want to and tuck a pillow into the hood. The layers can be clipped into place for snug and secure sleep or left loose for maximum moveability.

GETTY IMAGES; MAGGIE COBLENTZ; GETTY IMAGES; RUMPL; ON LEFT PAGE: CHENG-HAN SUN; YOUSUKE KAIFU; ADOBE STOCK

Photos of the week

2025 GDT NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Cold snap
Phillip Schulze took this shot of a frozen river in Iceland.

Twice as nice
Christian Höfs captured this image of two redstarts in an orchard in Germany.

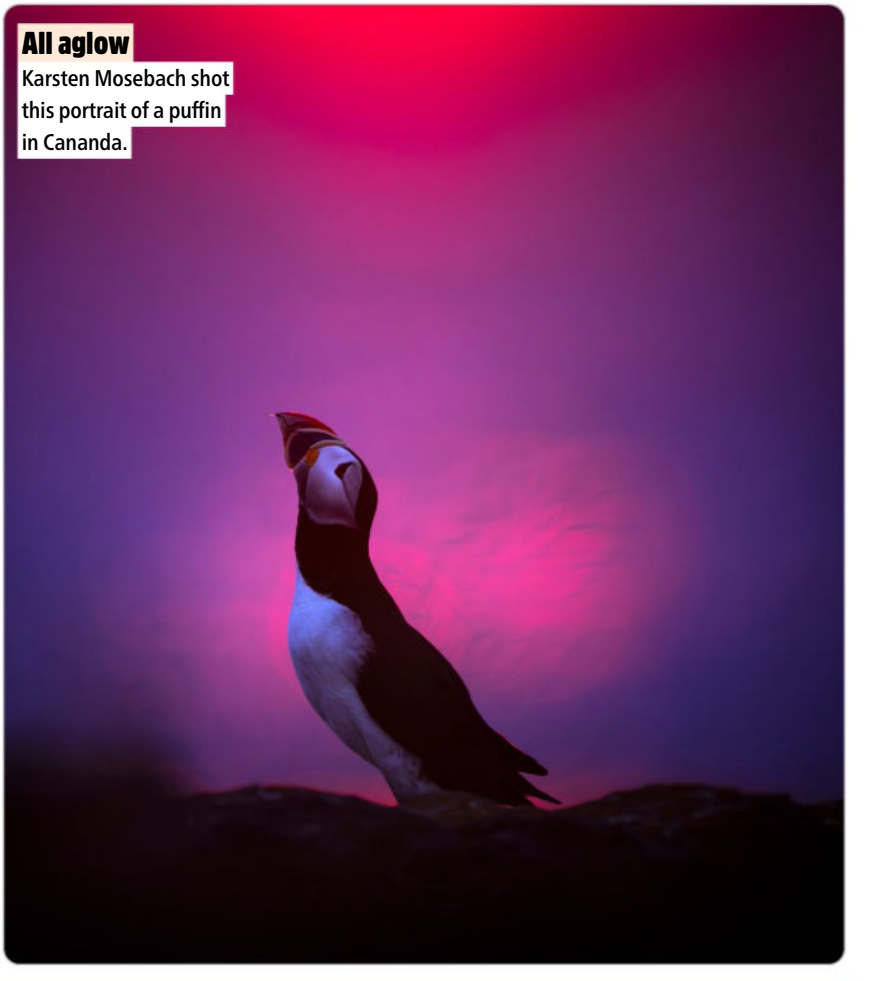
Making a splash
Konrad Wothe's image of a bird flying through a waterfall won the top prize.

KONRAD WOTHE; KARSTEN MOSEBACH; CHRISTIAN HOFS; NIKLAS BANOWSKI; PHILLIP SCHULZE; KATJA MANSKI

Photos of the week

Quiet moment
This picture of a German nature reserve at dusk was taken by Katja Manski.

Winging it
In Austria, Niklas Banowski got close to a butterfly in a fruit tree for this photo.



All aglow
Karsten Mosebach shot this portrait of a puffin in Cananda.

WOW! WNBA star A'ja Wilson's Nike A'One shoe launched on May 6 and sold out on the brand's website in less than five minutes.

The Golden State Valkyries and the Los Angeles Sparks on May 16

WNBA team news

The city of Cleveland, Ohio, will likely gain a WNBA team in 2028, according to a recent report. The city hosted one of the original eight WNBA teams, the Cleveland Rockers, who competed from 1997 to 2003. The new owners are expected to revive the Rockers name.

WNBA season gets underway

On May 16, the 2025 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) regular season began. One big change this season is that the league now has 13 teams, due to the addition of the Golden State Valkyries. They are based in San Francisco, California, and are the first WNBA expansion team since 2008. In the regular season, all the teams will play 44 games, the most in the league's 29-year history.

The WNBA's defending champions are the New York Liberty, and they are expected to be one of the best teams again this season. After winning their first title last year, they are now looking to become the fourth WNBA team to win consecutive championships.

Caitlin Clark

On opening day, the Valkyries hosted the Los Angeles Sparks in their first home game. The new team, which was formed with athletes drafted from other WNBA teams as well as several international players, ended up losing, 84–67. WNBA star Kelsey Plum, who was traded to the Sparks from the Las Vegas Aces in the offseason, scored 37 points.

Another player in the spotlight on May 16 was Paige Bueckers, the number one overall pick in the 2025 WNBA draft. The former University of Connecticut star now plays for the Dallas Wings. In her first regular-season game, against the Minnesota Lynx, she scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds. The Lynx won, 99–84.

The next day featured a matchup between the Liberty and the Aces, who were the WNBA champions in 2022 and 2023. The Liberty won, 92–78, and their star Breanna Stewart led the team with 25 points and eight rebounds. Aces star A'ja Wilson, the WNBA's 2024 MVP (Most Valuable Player), had 31 points and 16 rebounds.

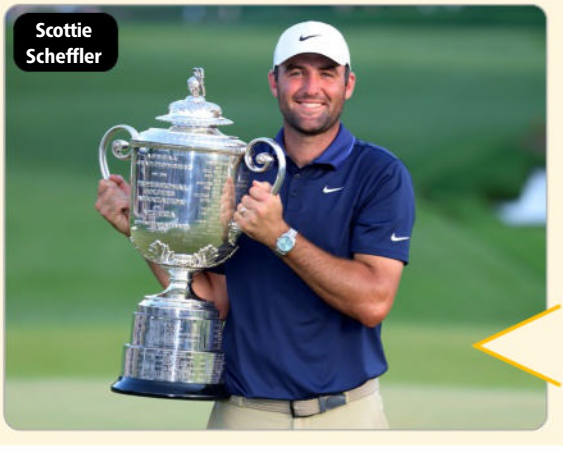
Also on May 17, the Indiana Fever defeated the Chicago Sky, 93–58. The Fever's Caitlin Clark, now in her second WNBA season, compiled the third triple-double (double-digits in three statistical categories) of her career, with 20 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists.

In an exciting game on May 18, the Washington Mystics pulled off a 90–85 comeback win over the Connecticut Sun to finish their opening weekend with a 2–0 record.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

On May 18, the Florida Panthers, who are the defending NHL champions, kept their hopes of a repeat title alive by beating the Toronto Maple Leafs, 6–1, in a deciding Game 7 in the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. The Panthers are now facing the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference final. Meanwhile, the Dallas Stars and the Edmonton Oilers advanced to the Western Conference final.



Scottie Scheffler

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

In a Division I NCAA championship tournament regional game on May 18, Liberty University beat Texas A&M, the top-ranked team, 6–5, and knocked them out of the competition. That had not happened to a number one team since the current tournament format began in 2005.

GOLF

American Scottie Scheffler won the PGA Championship, one of the four major tournaments in men's golf, on May 18.

BIG DREAMS Three of the four teams that remain in the NBA playoffs have never won a championship title.

New York Knicks star Karl-Anthony Townes on May 16

Surprises in the NBA playoffs

The NBA (National Basketball Association) postseason has been full of thrilling action and surprising upsets. The Cleveland Cavaliers, Boston Celtics, and Oklahoma City Thunder all won an impressive 60 or more games during the regular season, but only the Thunder made it through the conference semifinals, which ended on May 18.

In NBA playoff rounds, teams compete in best-of-seven-game series. The Indiana Pacers and the Minnesota Timberwolves advanced to the conference finals with 4–1 records in the semifinal round. The Pacers eliminated the Cavaliers, the top team in the Eastern Conference, on May 13, and in Western Conference action the next day, the Timberwolves knocked out the Golden State Warriors. Warriors star Steph Curry missed the last three games of the series due to an injury.

The other conference semis were closer contests. In the East, the Celtics, the 2024 NBA champions, battled the New York Knicks and were knocked out after a Game 6 loss on May 16. Adding to their disappointment, Celtics star Jayson Tatum suffered a season-ending injury in Game 4. The Knicks are now in their first conference finals since 2000. They are facing the Pacers.

The Thunder, the number one team in the West, survived a difficult series against the Denver Nuggets and won a deciding Game 7 on May 18. The matchup featured two favorites for the NBA MVP (Most Valuable Player) Award, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of the Thunder and Nikola Jokic of the Nuggets. In Game 7, Gilgeous-Alexander led all players with 35 points. The Thunder are now playing the Timberwolves.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Xander Pratt**

Team: **Lifetime Otters (swimming)**

"Coach Xander is helpful, kind, and motivational. He helps us achieve our goals and always pushes us to new limits. He never gives up, he's fun, and he's always positive. Coach Xander is encouraging at swim meets when we are nervous to compete. He cheers when we want to give up and says, 'Don't give up now. We're almost done, and you can do it!' He makes us feel like we can do anything!" Mila, 10, Texas

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Boston Buckberger

AGE: 21 SPORT: ICE HOCKEY
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Cool start My dad played professional hockey, and when I was about 3, my parents built an outdoor rink in our backyard. My twin brother and I would go out there and slap the puck around. When I was younger, I was pretty small and wasn't the best player. As I grew, I gained more confidence on the ice and my game started to flourish.

Pre-game ritual I wear number 9. Before a game, I always sit in seat 9 in the ninth row behind what is our net for the first and third periods.

Group effort My favorite thing about hockey is the friendships. All my best friends are from hockey, and those relationships help you win. In other sports, you can have a great player who is going to win the game for you on his own, but hockey is different. Every player—even the stars—only plays about 23 minutes per game.

Top moment Winning the national championship last year was the coolest thing ever. I think team accomplishments mean much more than individual ones because at the end of the day, it's so hard to win—and win the last game of the season.

Pro plans I've always wanted to play in the NHL. My dad was so close but never played a regular-season NHL game. So that's my goal—to make him proud and kind of do it for him.

Life lesson Use setbacks to your advantage. I got cut from a team when I was 14 or 15. I was so, so angry and promised myself I'd work hard and never be cut by another team I wanted to play for again. I think that's why I'm where I am today.

GETTY IMAGES (2); UOD ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); CLEVELAND ROCKERS

SCREEN STAR
Actor Jackie Chan has appeared in more than 150 films and is considered the most popular movie star in Asia.

Jackie Chan (left) and Ben Wang in *Karate Kid: Legends*

A new Karate Kid chapter

In *Karate Kid: Legends*, the latest sequel to a beloved film, a teen is trained by two martial arts masters for a competition.

The Karate Kid, a movie released in 1984, tells a heartwarming story about a bullied teen named Daniel LaRusso, who builds a special friendship with a martial arts master. Considered by many to be one of the best sports films ever made, it spawned sequels and the Netflix series *Cobra Kai*, featuring Daniel as an adult. After a 15-year break from the big screen, a new film, *Karate Kid: Legends*, opens in theaters on May 30. It is rated PG-13.

Ralph Macchio

In *Legends*, Li Fong, a teen from China, moves to New York City. He studied kung fu in his hometown, but after he runs into trouble with a karate champ, he enters a karate competition. Li is trained by his kung fu master, Mr. Han (played by famous martial arts film star Jackie Chan), and Daniel, who is now a sensei (teacher). As always, Daniel is played by Ralph Macchio.

Ben Wang, who plays Li, told *The Week Junior* he has been a *Karate Kid* fan since he saw the 2010 version of the film, which also starred Chan. "I started doing martial arts around that time," he said. As a result, he knew taekwondo, gumdo, and wing chun, but he learned karate for the film.

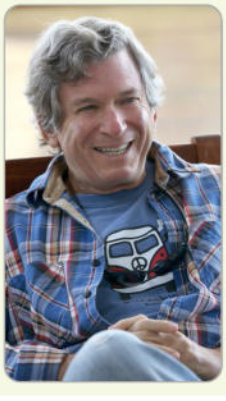
One of the film's big fights is set on a rooftop at sunset and took weeks to shoot. Wang revealed that in order to avoid issues with the setting sun, the action was filmed in an arena that was surrounded by a 360-degree curved screen where the skyline background was projected.

The action scenes add excitement, but Wang said *Legends* is about more than that: "It's about learning to grow as an individual by working hard at something that you really believe in and having good teachers to help you along the way."

More about The Karate Kid

Inspiration

The first film was written by Robert Mark Kamen (right). It was inspired by an article about a bullied boy who took karate lessons, as well as Kamen's own experiences with bullying and martial arts.



Sequels

In the 1980s, there were two direct follow-ups to the original *Karate Kid*, plus an animated TV series. In 1994, *The Next Karate Kid* had a female main character, played by Hilary Swank. A 2010 remake of the original starred Jaden Smith (right).

Stage version

The Karate Kid: The Musical—which was based on the first film and had a script by the same writer, Robert Mark Kamen—made its world premiere in 2022 in St. Louis, Missouri. It was considered a test for a potential Broadway run.

Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge at Super Nintendo World

CAREER CHANGE
The original Mario character's job was a carpenter before he was made a plumber.

Mario-themed park opens in Florida

Fans of Nintendo's Super Mario Bros. franchise have a new way to engage with their favorite characters. On May 22, Super Nintendo World opened as one of the five portals (areas) at Universal's new Epic Universe theme park in Orlando, Florida.

The Mario character made his debut in a Donkey Kong game in 1981. In 1985, the first game starring Mario was released worldwide, and Super Mario games have since become the best-selling video game franchise ever made.

The first Super Nintendo World opened in 2021 at Universal Studios Japan, and the second one arrived in 2023 at Universal Studios Hollywood in California. Mario and his brother, Luigi, are plumbers from New York City, but many of the Mario games are set in the Mushroom Kingdom, which is the setting for Super Nintendo World.

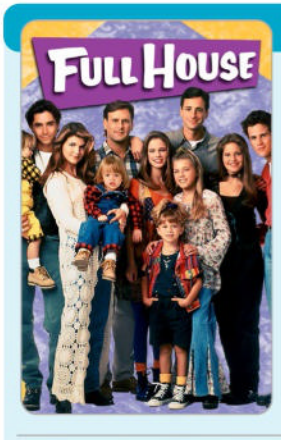
Luigi (left) and Mario

One of the main rides is Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge. It blends real-world sets with digital visuals to create an immersive experience. Riders race through tracks alongside Mario, Luigi, and Princess Peach, battling Team Bowser and collecting coins. There is a different ending depending on which teams wins. The other big rides are Yoshi's Adventure, a scenic ride in and above the Mushroom Kingdom, and Donkey Kong's Mine-Cart Madness, which is a coaster.

There are interactive elements in the park, which can be accessed with a Power-Up Band bracelet. Visitors who have one can punch blocks to trigger hidden animations and also collect digital coins and unlock surprises. The area has themed restaurants, like the Toadstool Cafe.

Epic Universe's other portals include The Wizarding World of Harry Potter—Ministry of Magic and How to Train Your Dragon—Isle of Berk.

READER RECOMMENDS



Full House (Hulu, Max, or available to rent or buy on all major platforms)
"This sitcom is about the ups and downs of a family in San Francisco: a dad and his three daughters, plus the dad's brother-in-law and best friend. The show originally aired in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when my parents were my age, but the issues the family faces—such as school, friendship, and growing up—are still relevant today. My favorite character is Michelle, the youngest sister. She is cute and funny, and you get to watch her and her sisters grow up through the seasons. I would give this show 15 stars out of 10!" Cassidy, 10, Connecticut

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Mission Unstoppable
(Paramount+)
Actress Miranda Cosgrove (above) hosts this series that highlights women in STEM who are leading the way in science and innovation. Season six is currently airing and includes episodes about animal behavior, skateboarding physics, and the chemistry behind makeup.

Fountain of Youth
(Apple TV+)
Two adult siblings go on a high-stakes quest for the mythical Fountain of Youth in this new adventure film. They follow historical clues across five continents, stopping at the Egyptian pyramids and other ancient ruins while also facing dangerous enemies. It is rated PG-13.

Lego Masters
(Fox)
It's season five of this popular competition series that pits teams of builders against each other. The challenges include making a Star Wars galaxy, a *Wicked* set, and Batmobiles. The champions earn a $100,000 prize and get their winning build displayed at Legoland Florida.

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT (2); WARNER BROS.; LITTON ENTERTAINMENT; APPLE TV+; TOM GRISCOM/FOX; ON LEFT PAGE: COLUMBIA PICTURES (2); GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

DID YOU KNOW?
Greenland, the world's largest island, has been inhabited for about 4,000 to 5,000 years.

Fantasy Life i: The Girl Who Steals Time

Solve a mystery on a deserted island

Fantasy Life i: The Girl Who Steals Time is a new role-playing game (RPG). It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox consoles, and PC. It is a sequel to Fantasy Life, a Nintendo 3DS game that was released in the US in 2014.

The original Fantasy Life was set in the kingdom of Reveria, and gamers could switch between 12 different "life paths" to complete different tasks. It began as a pleasant life simulation, but the goal shifted to stopping a mysterious dark energy from destroying the land. In 2018, Fantasy Life Online was released for mobile devices, but updates ended in 2021. The Girl Who Steals Time has new characters and mysteries, as well as updated graphics.

You start the game by making an avatar and joining an expedition with an archaeologist named Edward. The team gets sidetracked by an unusual Bone Dragon and follows it through a gate in the sky. They end up on a deserted island and decide to stay there to try to rebuild it. The island is not only filled with monsters—there is also a time warp that sends people back to when the area was thriving. Figuring out what happened to that civilization is a big part of the game.

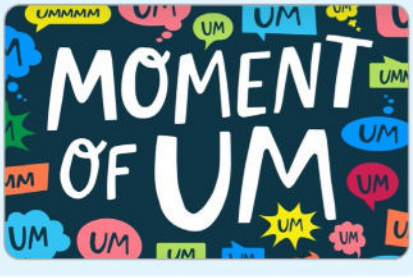
There is always something to do on the island, including battling monsters, exploring dungeons, and building a new town. You can access different skills and change the focus of the game and its challenges by switching between 14 different lives. The lives fall into three categories—combat, gathering, or crafting—and include roles such as magician, farmer, and artist. You can play the game alone or with up to four friends or family members so you can help each other with all the work.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MOMENT OF UM

Major podcast platforms

Each short episode of this show explores a different topic, including medicine, plants, dinosaurs, and the ocean. It also features expert guests who answer kids' questions, such as why cutting onions makes people cry and whether lizards can smell with their tongues.



GAME OF THE WEEK

SIMON'S CAT MATCH

Apple App Store, Google Play

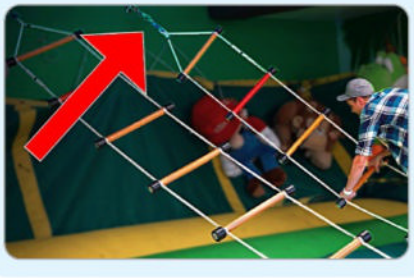
Fans of Candy Crush Saga will enjoy this puzzle game featuring a cat from a popular British animated web series. You progress through levels by matching treats of the same color. You can also solve other puzzles, play mini-games, and help the cat and his friends build and decorate spaces.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

CARNIVAL SCAM SCIENCE

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Carnival

This video by engineer Mark Rober explains how carnival games are designed to be nearly impossible to win. Among the featured games is one that requires shooting a basketball into a hoop, one that requires knocking down milk bottles with a ball, and the ladder climb (below).



LEVELS (2); BRAINS ON!; TACTILE GAMES LIMITED; MARK ROBER VIA YOUTUBE

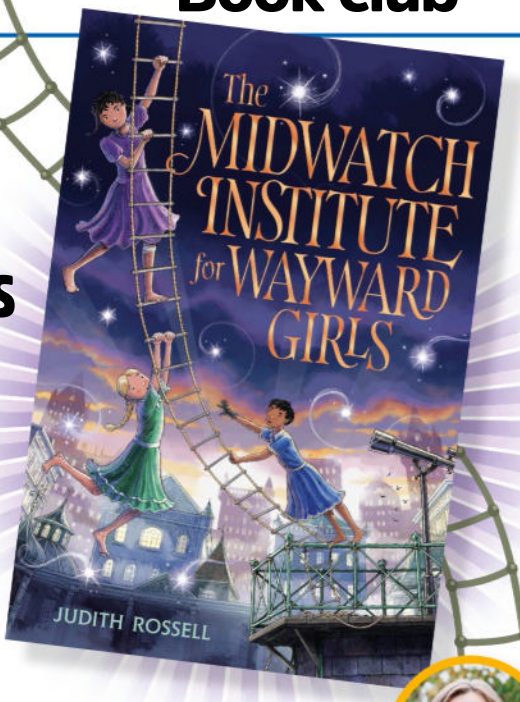
BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls

By Judith Rossell

(Dial Books for Young Readers)

When Maggie gets kicked out of an orphanage for bad behavior, a teacher drops her off at The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls. She's dreading this new school because it has a reputation for making its students miserable. But quite the opposite is true! Maggie and two other new students, who were considered troublemakers by their guardians, are greeted with cake and new clothes. It turns out that the terrifying rumors about the school are to hide the fact that students receive spy training and solve mysteries to protect the city. For example, Maggie takes classes in "hiding," in addition to traditional subjects. The students are called into action when a woman who loves orchids disappears from the library. She writes a letter that contains a secret code asking for help. By carrying dolls that hide their spy equipment, will these spunky and smart girls be able to crack the case? This delightful story is set in the 1920s and contains stunning black-and-white illustrations that will make readers feel like they're part of the action.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Judith Rossell

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?
I wanted to write a story about a group of girls in the 1920s who solve crimes and mysteries together.

What does the word "wayward" mean to you?
To me, it means someone who doesn't always follow the easy path and is headstrong and independent.

What adventures did you enjoy as a child?
I grew up in Australia and I was a Girl Guide, which is similar to being a Girl Scout in the US. We would go camping, sleep in tents in the bush, and cook over a campfire. It was wonderful!

Are you and Maggie alike?
Maggie is loyal, stubborn, and brave. I'm loyal and stubborn but not as brave as Maggie.

What were your favorite books growing up?
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl and *The Wolves of Willoughby*

READER RECOMMENDS

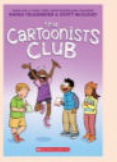
Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes *By Jonathan Auxier*

"This interesting book is about a boy named Peter who is blind and an orphan. To survive, he is forced to learn how to steal. Soon enough, he becomes an expert lock-pick. One day, he steals a mysterious box containing magical eyes. Once he puts them in, he's transported on a thrilling adventure where he uncovers the truth about his past." Arjun, 10, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 picks from Jeff Kinney

The creator of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series shares ideas for summer reading.



The Cartoonists Club

By Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud

(Graphix)

Friends form a comics club, and they are excited to show their work at a local convention. "This is a perfect book for kids who are interested in becoming cartoonists," Kinney said. "It's a funny story that highlights the importance of self-expression." *Ages 8–12*

J vs. K

By Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

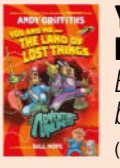
Kinney described this illustrated novel by two celebrated authors as "an epic rivalry between two fifth graders who are determined to win their school's annual creative storytelling contest." There's a hilarious twist at the end, and it has something to do with Kinney himself! *Ages 8–12*

Same Page

By Elly Swartz

(Delacorte Press)

The sixth-grade class president wants to have a book-vending machine installed at school, but some parents object to the books she wants to include. "In this heartfelt, inspiring contemporary novel, middle schoolers and rock star librarians band together to fight book banning," said Kinney. *Ages 10 and up*



You and Me and the Land of Lost Things

By Andy Griffiths, illustrated by Bill Hope

(Feiwel & Friends)

Two friends are looking for a missing lucky rabbit foot when they accidentally venture into the Land of Lost Things. "It's a hilarious romp from the creator of the Treehouse series and illustrator Bill Hope," said Kinney. Kids will enjoy the fast-paced plot, he said. *Ages 6–10*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF JUDITH ROSSELL; FILIP WOLAK; GETTY IMAGES

MAY MOON
The full Moon in May is called the Flower Moon because of the flowers blooming across North America at this time of year.

Enjoy viewing the stars

Head outside and look up to see the celestial wonders above.

With the weather warming up and school days winding down, it's a perfect time of year to head outdoors and take up stargazing. You can stay up late with family and friends to see the stars or, with an adult's help, look for astronomy clubs near you that may host stargazing events for the public. If you'd like to see what sights you can spot at night, here's how you can get started.

Notice the Moon

You've seen the Moon many times. But have you ever noticed how it affects the rest of the sky? A full Moon lights it up and can actually block you from seeing the planets and fainter stars. The best time to stargaze is at the end of the Moon's cycle, when it's really small, or during a new Moon when it's usually not visible. The new Moon happens about once a month. This month, the new Moon phase will begin on May 26.

The Big Dipper

Find a good spot

When the new Moon phase arrives—or at least gets close—it's time to stargaze. Check that it's not cloudy that night, and have an adult help you find an area away from street lamps, neon signs, and headlights. (They are considered light pollution and can make it difficult to see stars.) Remember that it can take up to 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the darkness.

Look for planets

Once your eyes have adjusted, the brightest objects to look for first are other planets. You can see Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn with just your eyes. Venus, the most vibrant planet in our solar system, should be easy to spot in the Western sky just after sunset. It looks like an extra large star. If you're willing to get up super early (before dawn), you might see the Moon passing Saturn and Venus in the Eastern sky in late May.

Focus on constellations

Constellations and asterisms are groups of stars that make up patterns in the sky. First, look for the Big Dipper, a well-known asterism made of seven bright stars. If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper down, it will point you toward a bright red star called arcturus. It's inside the Bootes constellation, which is shaped like an ice cream cone. Then look up from there to a bright blue star called spica in the constellation Virgo.

3 ways to see more

You can make the most of stargazing with a few helpful items. Many libraries and astronomy clubs allow users to borrow the first two for free.

Binoculars **You can see some amazing views of objects in the night sky with simple binoculars, according to NASA. Binoculars give a much larger field of view of the sky than most telescopes.**

Telescope **A telescope can help you see distant objects and finer details, like the rings around Saturn, more clearly.**

Planisphere **A planisphere is a type of star chart, which is like a map of the stars. You can print one out at in-the-sky.org.**

FUN FACT
Ice cream sandwiches sold in the late 1800s by New York City street vendors were called hokey pokeys.

Make colorful ice cream sandwiches

Ingredients

- ½ cup red, white, and blue sprinkles
- 16 store-bought cookies (such as chocolate chip or sugar)
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream

Instructions

1. Spread the sprinkles out on a plate. Place 8 of the cookies face down on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
2. Top each cookie with 1 to 2 scoops (⅓ to ½ cup) of ice cream, depending on the size of the cookie. Close each sandwich by placing a second cookie face up on top. Gently squeeze the cookies together to bring the ice cream to the edge, then immediately roll the edge in the sprinkles.
3. Transfer the baking sheet with the sandwiches to the freezer until the ice cream is firm.
4. Once the ice cream has refrozen, transfer all the sandwiches to a freezer-safe zip-top bag or storage container. Makes 8 sandwiches.

Helpful tips

- These red, white, and blue ice cream sandwiches make a fantastic dessert to serve at a summer cookout or a Fourth of July party.
- Soft, chewy cookies work best for easier biting. You can also use homemade cookies. Allow them to cool completely before sandwiching ice cream between them.
- Make these all summer long! Change up the sprinkle colors, or roll the edges in mini chocolate chips, toasted coconut, or graham cracker crumbs instead.
- You can also try making these sandwiches with other ice cream flavors, like chocolate, strawberry, or mint chip. If it's hard to scoop, let it soften in the fridge a few minutes.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: CREATE YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD CLEANER

Some store-bought household cleaning products include chemicals that harm the environment and pollute the air. With an adult's help, you can make inexpensive, eco-friendly cleaning solutions from ingredients you may already have in your cabinets. To make an all-purpose cleaner for countertops and bathroom sinks, mix equal parts white vinegar and water in a spray bottle and add a piece of lemon peel. For an all-natural window cleaner, mix ¼ cup vinegar with 4 cups water and 1 tablespoon cornstarch. (Shake it up to dissolve the cornstarch.) To remove odor from your kitchen sink, pour some baking soda directly down the drain, followed by water.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Keyword crossword

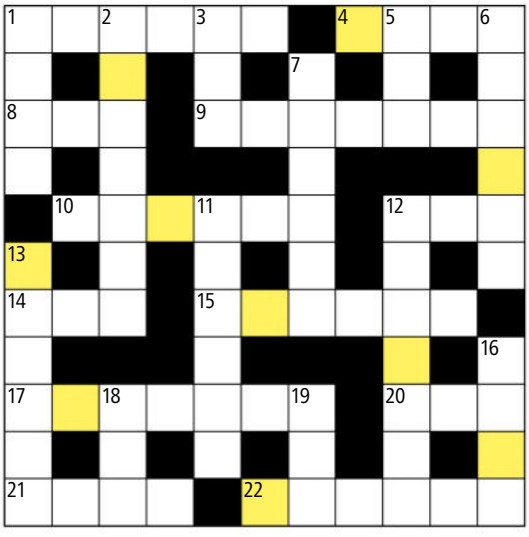
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

1 Drop a football during a game
4 Each track in a playlist
8 Automobile
9 Long wiry hair on a cat's face
10 Comfy, padded bed coverings
12 Word for travelers meaning "by way of"
14 Dry grass that's fed to horses
15 They hang on a bathroom rack
17 Parts of jeans for holding stuff
20 Tool for a lumberjack
21 Grassy area around a house
22 Loudest friend of Bashful and Doc

DOWN

1 Verified piece of information
2 Planet only slightly larger than our moon
3 Rule passed by Congress
5 Tree that produces acorns
6 Language that gave us the words "kindergarten" and "pretzel"
7 ___ puzzle (item made of interlocking pieces of a large picture)
11 X or O, for example
12 Small community away from a city
13 Place for worship where a wedding might be held
16 Say you didn't do it
18 Animal on a dairy farm
19 Our name for Earth's nearest star



Keyword question: In 1837, two French law professors fought a duel, in which one man was injured, over the proper usage of what?

CODE CRACKER

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

In this coded list of familiar phrases that include one of the senses (like NEW CAR SMELL), every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded H. Use the letter patterns you find, and the names of the senses, to crack the code.

P L V Y A X I Z Y J K B

J K B L L M A Z R A I

H J K J R X J K B A L V P X

THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

FICTION OLD LINE SCIENCE IN SHEEPDOG MOVIE ENGLISH STAND

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

5	3	1	2	4
2	5	3	5	3
4	2	2	4	1
1	5	3	1	1
3	4	5	2	4

Spot the difference

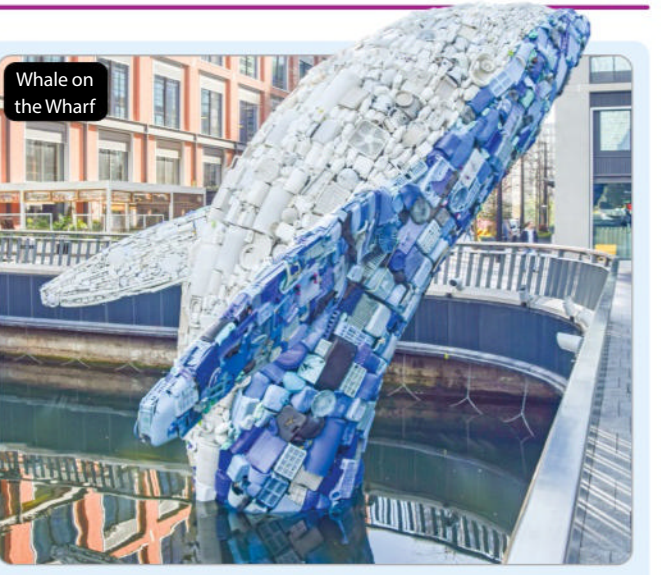
These two pictures of an observatory on top of Mauna Kea in Hawaii appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Cutting room hint: For one of the sections, start in one corner and include two squares in both directions.

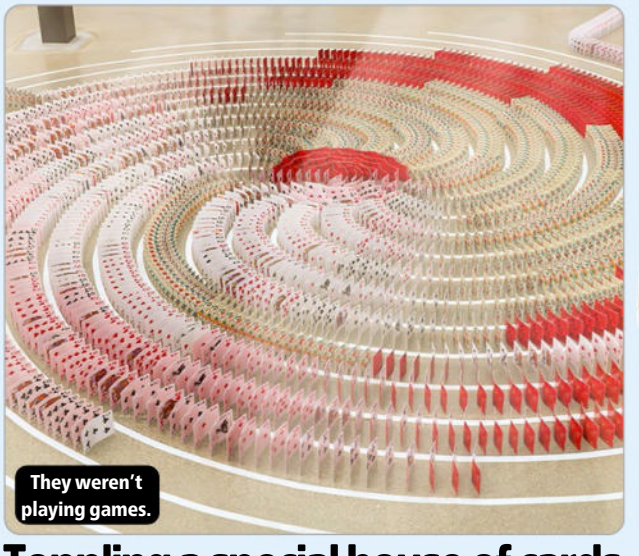
Western donkey race is a wild ride

Donkeys and humans hoofed it at a race in New Mexico that paid tribute to the old mining towns of the American West. In the event, a pack burro race, people didn't ride the donkeys but instead gently pushed, pulled, or led them by rope while the animals carried traditional mining tools. Each pair ran on a 3-mile or 6-mile course, competing for trophies. Marvin Sandoval and his miniature burro Buttercup won the 6-mile race in about 49 minutes. "She wants to be out front," he said. "She climbs really well."



Waste becomes whale artwork

There's a whale in the UK's Canary Wharf—not a real animal, but a 36-foot sculpture of one created by architects Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang. The pair used more than five tons of plastic waste from Hawaiian beaches to decorate the artwork, called Whale on the Wharf. The sculpture was built with recycled steel, and used coffee grounds were added to its concrete base to make it stronger. Klimoski and Chang said they made the sculpture to raise awareness about plastic pollution in the ocean.



Toppling a special house of cards

A world record was in the cards when a Chinese company staged an elaborate display to demonstrate the strength of its windows and doors. SUNHOHI hired a team to set up 51,725 playing cards on their sides in a glass room and then used fans and sprinklers to mimic a tropical storm outside. The cards stayed balanced until the company's president tipped one over, causing them to fall like dominoes and clinching a Guinness World Records title. A team leader called it a "miracle."

A tasty cake with robotic powers

A group of scientists and chefs revealed the world's first edible robotic cake at the 2025 World Expo in Japan. Called the RoboCake, it has robotic features such as a cake topper with two dancing gummy bears, which move when air is injected into them. The system is powered by batteries made from chocolate, which also light up electric candles on the cake. Afterward, the batteries can be eaten. Chef Julien Boutonnet said, "It's interactive. It's a performance. And it's edible." Is this story real, or is it full of hot air?*

*Real! The RoboCake project is a way of developing new technologies that could be used in food and medicines in the future. A coordinator said edible robotics could also help monitor the freshness of food and reduce waste.

AP; SHUTTERSTOCK; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; EPFL/JAMANI CAILLET (2); EPFL/IIT/EHL; ON LEFT PAGE GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

This week's cover of *The Week Junior* welcomes the Golden State Valkyries to the WNBA (p18). The league hasn't added a new team since 2008, so this is major news in the world of sports.

I'm excited to see how the team does this year and, in the bigger picture, how the WNBA season unfolds. Interest in women's basketball has skyrocketed in recent years, and I expect the enthusiasm to continue to grow. One player I'll be watching closely is Paige Bueckers, the first overall pick in this year's WNBA draft. She now plays for the Dallas Wings, and although her team lost to the Minnesota Lynx in its first regular-season game, she scored 10 points and had seven rebounds. No matter what happens, I'll always be grateful that I had a chance to see her play in her final season as a University of Connecticut guard. During the game my son and I attended, she scored the 2,000th point of her college career!

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Pets for the Elderly

This group provides companionship to older people while saving the lives of animals in shelters. Pets for the Elderly pays pet-adoption fees so anyone age 60 or older who wants a dog or cat can afford one. The organization began by working with two shelters in Ohio in 1992. It later expanded across the US and has helped with 100,000 adoptions. Find out more at petsfortheelderly.org.

PETS for THE ELDERLY

Cupcakes for a cause

Juniper, 13, and Guthrie, 11, Oregon

"We started baking together during Covid to enjoy a sweet treat and to connect with our neighbors. About a year ago, we started making fancy cupcakes and selling them in the park down the street. Our mom found a wagon and an old wooden box at a garage sale that we turned into our stand. We wanted to give back to society and decided to donate the money we raised to the Humane Society, where we volunteer, as well as to other organizations we believe in. Our customers sometimes give us more than the $3 we charge for a cupcake. We also offer lots of interesting information about the Humane Society, which works to protect animals. We have baked more than 240 cupcakes, including one featured in *The Week Junior*, and many cakes for our family members' birthdays. We have raised more than $500 for charity."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Why did the baker throw out his dough?

He didn't knead it.

International photo contest opportunity

The Standard Chartered Young Weather Photographer of the Year contest is being held by The Royal Meteorological Society in partnership with *The Week Junior Science+Nature* magazine in the UK. Anyone under age 18 from around the world can submit photos they have taken that capture the wonders of the weather or any signs of climate change. The contest is free to enter, and the deadline for submissions is June 19. You can find out more about the terms and conditions for applying at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-SN-Mets.

Jamie McBean won the 2023 contest with this photo of mammatus clouds at sunset in Kent, UK.

THE WEEK Junior **IT'S YOUR TURN** Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"We love *The Week Junior* so much that we read it the moment it arrives in our mailbox—even if we're in the middle of playing basketball!" Sajan, 11, and Jai, 8, Michigan

"The article on speaking with confidence helped me get ready for my class president speech." Jackie, 10, Virginia

"I have many animals, but I love my chickens best. My favorite roosters are Phoenix and Boots, who I raised as chicks." Levi, 9, Texas

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Peña**

School: **The Sarah Smith Garnet School**

"Ms. Peña is an amazing teacher. She always pushes me to do my best. Ms. Peña ensures that her class is fun and memorable by making it interactive. She lets us run the classroom and gives us the freedom to choose where we want to sit. She is the best teacher ever and has made going to school so much more interesting."

Gabby, 11, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

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Puzzle answers (from page 26)

F	U	M	B	L	E	■	S	O	N	G				
A	■	E	■	A	■	J	■	A	■	E				
C	A	R	■	W	H	I	S	K	E	R				
T	■	C	■	■	■	G	■	■	■	M				
■	Q	U	I	L	T	S	■	V	I	A				
C	■	R	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	N				
H	A	Y	■	T	O	W	E	L	S	■				
A	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	L	■	D				
P	O	C	K	E	T	S	■	A	X	E				
E	■	O	■	R	■	U	■	G	■	N				
L	A	W	N	■	S	N	E	E	Z	Y				

Keyword answer: semicolons

Code cracker
court hearing
in good taste
finishing touch

Three for all
old English sheepdog
science fiction movie
stand in line

5	3	1	2	4
2	5	3	5	3
4	2	2	4	1
1	5	3	1	1
3	4	5	2	4

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** b) Edward **2** a) 1215 **3** True **4** b) Shapes **5** China **6** True **7** c) Real Madrid **8** *Get Dressed!* **9** False. It was in California. **10** DolphinGemma **11** a) 1920s **12** a) Denver Nuggets **13** False. He was elected mayor of Omaha, Nebraska. **14** Miso **15** b) 51,725

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of the archaeologist in the game Fantasy Life i: The Girl Who Steals Time?

a) Edgar b) Edward c) Edwin

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 In what year did the king of England first issue the Magna Carta?

a) 1215 b) 1300 c) 1327

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Norway was the 55th country to join the Artemis Accords, which promotes international cooperation in space.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In a new study, researchers in Germany found that crows can identify what?

a) Sounds b) Shapes c) Colors

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 The new movie Karate Kid: Legends centers on a teen who moves to New York from what country?

6 True or false? Brood XIV cicadas are emerging above ground this year for the first time since 2008.

True ☐ False ☐

7 Which soccer club has won the most UEFA Champions League titles?

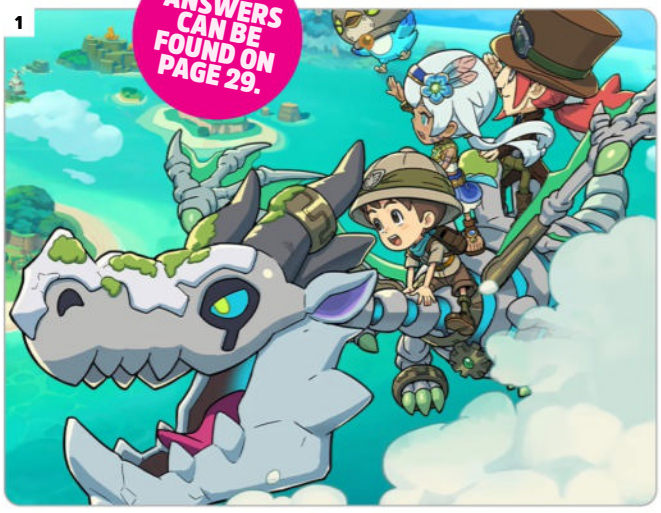
a) AC Milan b) Liverpool FC

c) Real Madrid

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What is the title of museum curator Katy Canales' new children's book about fashion history?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



9 True or false? The first Super Nintendo World in the US opened at Universal Studios in Florida.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What is the name of the AI model that scientists used to identify patterns in the sounds of Atlantic spotted dolphins?

11 The book The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls is set in what decade?

a) 1920s

b) 1940s

c) 1960s

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 Who did the Oklahoma City Thunder beat to advance to the NBA Western Conference Finals?

a) Denver Nuggets

b) Golden State Warriors

c) Minnesota Timberwolves

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? John Ewing Jr. was recently elected as the first Black mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What traditional Japanese ingredient was successfully made on the International Space Station?

15 How many playing cards were knocked over to set a new world record?

a) 5,172

b) 51,725

c) 517,250

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
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Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
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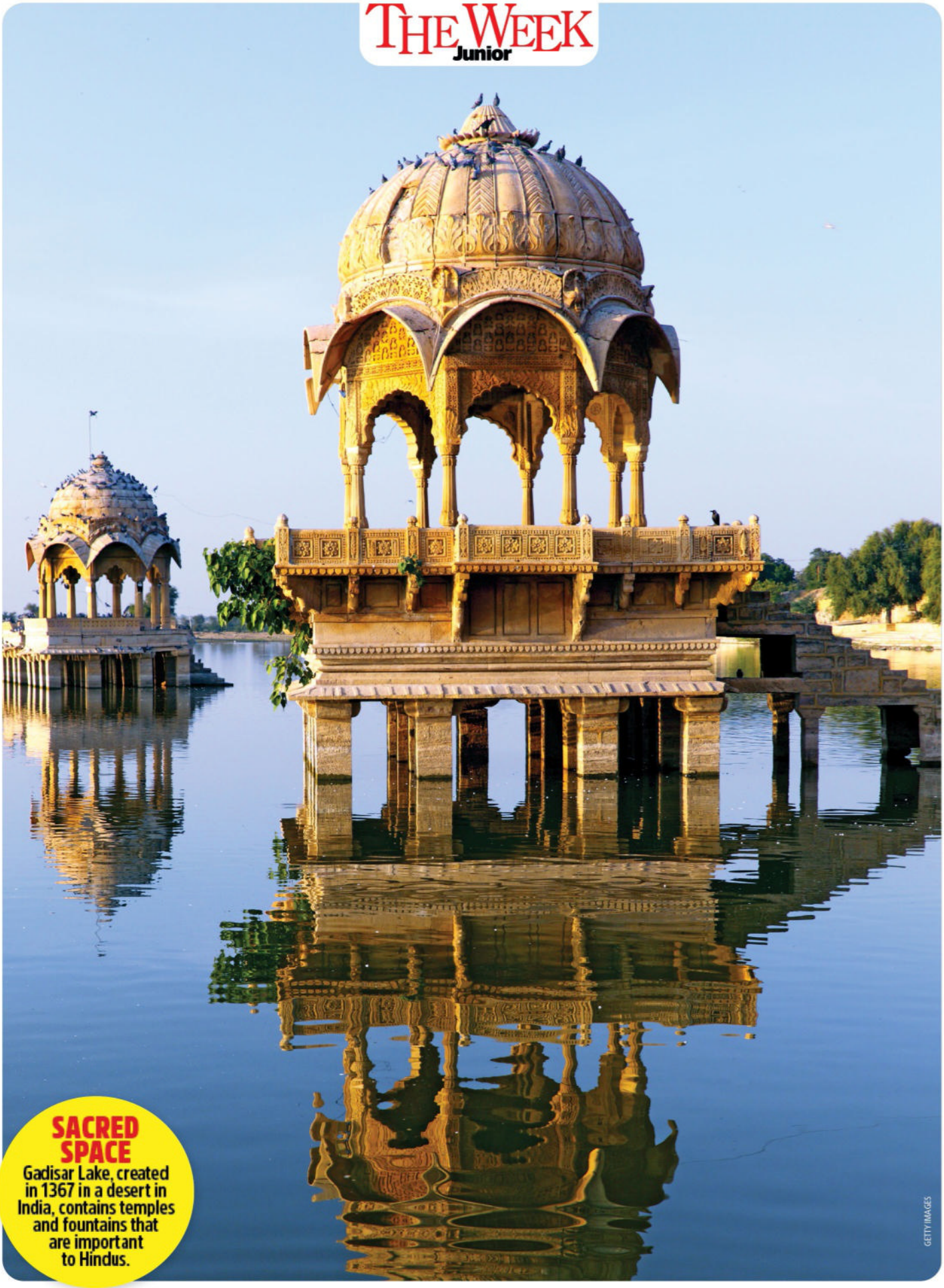

SACRED SPACE
Gadisar Lake, created in 1367 in a desert in India, contains temples and fountains that are important to Hindus.

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